

Tiverton Open Space Commission
Minutes of September 15, 2008 meeting
Essex Library, Highland Road

Present: Ginger Lacy (co-chair), Brian James (co-chair), Garry Plunkett, Martin Van Hoff, Martha Moore, Phil Schuyler, Dick Bixby, Susan Anderson

Call to Order: 7:10 p.m.

Administrative

1. Announcements:

-Garry reported that the Weetamoo grasslands were thriving and that he would seek someone interested in mowing it for hay.

-Garry reported an opportunity to apply for an additional grant from NRCS funds (Tom Sandham) that could be used to eliminate the wooded/stone dividers in the Babock fields. This would create safer acreage for nesting birds.

-Garry reported that funding from NRCS had been received by the town and most of it had been spent in support of the grasslands restoration. The small balance would be used to finish some work on the Babcock lot.

-Ginger distributed gift books she had purchased entitled "The Man Who Planted Trees"

2. Minutes from the July meeting were approved as submitted.

3. Dick distributed a spreadsheet listing account transactions and balances as follows:

Open Space-\$18.99

Fort Barton-\$1,975.00

Open Space Stewardship-\$2,071.79

Pocassetlands Stewardship- (\$5,454.00) [note: \$7,780.00 expense needs to be re-recorded under Open Space Stewardship; leaving a balance of \$2,326.00 in PS)

Open Space Acquisition-\$3,138.93.

Garry pointed out that the NRCS funding in August was not reflected in the report. (Following the meeting Dick confirmed that the town treasurer's office had the funding but had not yet posted it).

Suggestions for an additional column for commentary on actual use/job done description was offered for the new spreadsheet.

Trails and habitat

1. The workday with Roger Williams students was discussed and it was agreed that a great deal was accomplished at the East Road Weetamoo entrance and at Ft. Barton. Martin suggested that better coordination of student arrival times would have resulted in a more productive day.

2. Phil reported that the amount of damage at Ft. Barton historic site had tapered off over the last few weeks. However, one of the posts had been pulled up by vandals. There was also evidence of small fires were apparent near one of the trails and a couple of bridge planks had been removed. Good news – an unknown volunteer repaired a wood bench at the Fort site.
3. It was agreed to hold a workshop for Sept. 22 to plan for a ribbon cutting celebration and promotion of the new Orange trail. The event is to be held in October.
4. Garry announced that he would be building a kiosk at the Weetamoo East entrance north of the parking lot.
5. Sue reported that trees were down and blocking the trail east of the saw mill.
6. Discussed the mowing of the Chaves lot at High Hill Rd. It was noted that there is presently no automobile parking in the area. It was agreed to review how much of the area is presently being mowed at town expense.

Property deliberations

Brian reported that no actions had been taken.

Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Dick Bixby